DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0323/167389.01
Application No.: 09/838,436
Office Action Dated: December 15, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.111

REMARKS

According to the December 15, 2005 Office Action, claims 1-28 and 30-38 are pending in the application. These same claims have been rejected. Specifically, claims 1, 12, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as indefinite, and claims 1-28 and 30-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Girardot, Marc and Sundaresan, Neel, "Millau: an Encoding format for efficient representation and exchange of XML over the Web," Computer Networks 33 (2000) 747-765 (Girardot et al.).

Applicants address the Examiner's remarks in the order presented in the Office Action.

Rejection of claims 1, 12, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

In view of the arguments and amendments made below, Applicants submit that they have obviated this rejection.

Rejection of claims 1-28 and 30-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

As mentioned above, the following are the independent claims presently pending in the application: 1, 12, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 38. For example, claim 1 recites:

> A method for generating a data stream according to a binary format of a tag-based description language, comprising:
>> tokenizing tag names into numeric tokens for use in the data stream, wherein the numeric tokens are in incrementally consumable form <u>by having the most significant bit of at least one token be designated as a continuation flag</u>

(amended language underlined). The Applicants respectfully disagree that the previously added limitation of "the numeric tokens are in incrementally consumable form" was indefinite. The Applicants explained in the previous response what this limitation entailed:

> The most significant bit has special meaning depending on the type of the token...Variable sized unsigned integer values are represented by a multi-byte encoding format. This consists of a series of bytes where the most significant bit is a continuation flag.

See August 12, 2005 Response to Final Office Action, p. 9. *See Also* Specification, p. 16, l. 21 to p. 17, l. 4. Thus, as the Applicants explained already, multi-byte tokens can exist, and the fact that they have continuation flags, allows them to be later broken apart into

manageable pieces if the need to do so arises. Thus, the fact that tokens can have continuation flags allows them on the receiving end to be broken into manageable pieces to be consumed incrementally (i.e., in increments). In short, in this sense, the numeric tokens are in incrementally consumable form.

Even though the Applicants believed this much was clear, in order to expedite prosecution, they have further amended the claims to bring out explicitly this disclosed aspect of the presently subject matter. Claims 12, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 38 recite similar limitations.

Conversely, Girardot et al. merely talks about tokenizing and parsing in general terms, but not in such a way that "the numeric tokens are in incrementally consumable form by having the most significant bit of at least one token be designated as a continuation flag," *see* claims 1, 12, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 38. For example, Girardot et al. discloses that the "*Millau* SAX parser creates LIFO ... stack in which it puts the name of the element that are opened and not yet closed....Then it reads tokens from the input stream until the stack is empty" (pp. 751-752). But this does not teach that "the numeric tokens are in incrementally consumable form by having the most significant bit of at least one token be designated as a continuation flag" so that they can be introduced in "manageable pieces" to the *Millau* parser. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1, 12, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 38 patentably define over Girardot et al.

As mentioned, claims 1, 12, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 38 are the independent claims. Claims 2-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-22, 24-26 and 28 and 30-37 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 12, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 38, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowability of the pending claims is thus earnestly solicited.
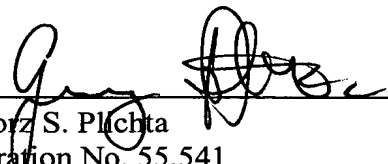
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Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that Claims 1-28 and 30-38 of the Application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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